

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held on March 18, 2020**

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 2:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following dockets

In attendance: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, John Harrington, Alan Nault, Todd Bianco and Luly Massaro. Commissioner Marion Gold by teleconferencing. Staff Cynthia Wilson Frias and Margaret Hogan not present.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:33 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 5005 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The docket is related to the PUC’s review of National Grid’s Annual Retail Rate Filing consisting of proposed rate changes arising out of the Company’s annual reconciliations of Standard Offer Service (SOS), the SOS administrative costs, the non-bypassable transition charge, the transmission service charge, the transmission-related uncollectible expense, the Net Metering charge and the Long-Term Contracting (LTC) for the Renewable Energy Factor effective April 1, 2020. The Division submitted a memorandum from its consultant, Daymark Energy, regarding their review and recommendation indicating the calculations to be various reconciliations appear to be correct. In light of the COVID-19 emergency in effect in Rhode Island, Chairperson Curran moved to approve the proposed rate changes on an interim basis subject to further review and hearing at some date in the future. Also, to include the recommendation from the Division, that National Grid used actual expenses for the transmission service reconciliation if those actual costs are available prior to the charge going into effect on April 1, 2020. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 4935 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The docket is related to the PUC’s review of National Grid’s proposed Renewable Energy Standard Charge of \$0.00866 per kWh arising out of the reconciliation and calculation of the Renewable Energy Standard Charge effective April 1, 2020. In light of the COVID-19 emergency in effect in Rhode Island, Chairperson Curran moved that the PUC approve the proposed Energy Standard Charge on an interim basis subject to further review and hearing at some point in the future. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 4979 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – In this docket, the PUC considered National Grid's Motion for Clarification and/or Relief from the PUC's December 30, 2019 Open Meeting decision. In its decision, the

PUC rejected the Company's proposal to continue and expand its Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Delivered Fuels Displacement Program in 2020. The program was scheduled to end December 31, 2019. The Company sought the PUC's approval, through a clarification of and/or relief from the 2019 decision, to wind down the ASHP Program in the first quarter of 2020 in a manner that the Company believes is appropriate and just to the various Rhode Island customers, vendors and contractors involved. After deliberation, the following motions were made:

1) Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC grant the motion for relief to the extent as follows. That heat pumps rebates for installations completed by January 14, 2020 may be paid out of the 2020 energy efficiency program budget. For purpose of the performance incentive, those installations will count as actual costs in electric energy savings for the 2019 program year. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2) Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC add a third condition to the conditions regarding when National Grid can transfer system benefit charge funds to Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB), found on page 324 of the Energy Efficiency Program Plan. That condition is that National Grid must provide documentation from the RIIB to National Grid that shows that RIIB does not have sufficient funds in its system benefit charge and system benefit charge repayment/recycled funds available accounts to commit towards those loans. National Grid should only transfer the sufficient funds for RIIB to commit those funds. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

3) Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC direct National Grid to file on a quarterly basis, updated Efficient Buildings Fund Cashflow schedule on a quarterly basis and provide whether or not they received the requested documentation from RIIB. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

V. The Open Meeting adjourned at 3:27 P.M. A video of the Open Meeting discussion can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.